

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Specifically, by this amendment, claims 15, 16 and 20 have been amended. No claims have been canceled and no new claims have been added to the application. Accordingly, claims 15-29 are pending in the application. No new matter has been added.

In the prior Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 20 on grounds that the word "interface" was misspelled as "inference." By this amendment, the spelling of the word "interface" in claim 20 has been corrected.

Also in the prior Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 15-29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of prior art references. In view of the amendments made to both independent claims pending in the application (namely, claims 15 and 20) and for the reasons set forth herein, reconsideration of the claim rejections is respectfully requested.

As described in detail in the specification and as claimed in independent claims 15 and 20, the present invention provides a method and a system for the establishment of a virtual electronic teaching system for an e-learning or tele-teaching event and with a workstation (AP) of a person participating in the e-learning or tele-teaching event. In accordance with the method and system, the connection of the person to the event can be accomplished immediately, even by an untrained user. This is done by registering an interface circuit (SS) connected to a telecommunication device (TE) or to the workstation (AP) via a telecommunication network having a main distribution to a central content-server, and also establishing a connection **vicarious for the telecommunication device (TE)** between the interface circuit (SS) and the content server. Thus both telecommunication device (TE) and workstation (AP) are connected to the central content-server. By this arrangement, the interface circuit (SS) establishes the connection vicarious for the telecommunication device (TE) and thus prevents typical "time out"-problems by indicating the complete reception of an image file in such a way that the workstation

(AP) remains connected to the tele-teaching or e-learning event even though for example, the transmission of high-resolution images with a frame rate of 16 1/sec, is not possible with a 56 KBit connection. Also in order to avoid idle times, the interface circuit (SS) automatically breaks the connection in case of inactivity in data communications greater than a preselected waiting time (short hold) and, once data are pending again, restores the connection.

On page 30 of the Detailed Action portion of the prior Office Action, the Examiner stated that the advantages provided by the present invention, which were disclosed in the specification but not included in the claims, were not considered. Accordingly, by this amendment, claims 15 and 20 have been amended to specify that (in the case of claim 15) a connection is established vicarious for the telecommunication device (TE) connected to said main distribution via a subscriber line or subscriber modem and splitter or a network termination (NTBA) and subscriber lines (AL), between the interface circuit (SS) and said content-server and that (in the case of claim 20) the interface circuit is connected via at least a standardized interface (SS) vicarious for said telecommunication device (TE) and registers itself to said content-server by means of the log-in procedure stored in the memory unit (SP). Furthermore, both claims 15 and 20 have been amended to clarify that all available protocols in communication with said content-server as a remote station adjusts itself to a protocol proposed by the remote station, so that said interface circuit (SS) prevents typical "time out"-problems by indicating the complete reception of an image file in such a way that said workstation (AP) remains connected to said e-learning or tele-teaching event.

None of the prior art references cited by the Examiner in the prior Office Action describe or suggest this important function of the interface circuit (SS), namely establishing the connection **vicarious for the telecommunication device (TE)**. Furthermore, none of the prior art references of record describe or suggest providing an interface circuit (SS) with an additional intelligent operating element (BT) (e.g., for language training) such as is claimed in claim 23. The intelligent operating element (BT) is designed to interpret, for example, voice files which are stored on the participant's computer or which are transmitted as a stream within the scope of e-learning or tele-teaching event as a so-called "teacher track" (which

cannot be altered by the student) and further to that, to record exercises by the student, for example, repeating a sample text, on the "student track". Recordings are stored in both cases on the memory media of the participant's computers, and are replayed using the computer's sound equipment. In this case, this voice lab operating element (BT) is connected to the appropriate communication head set (microphone, ear phones) and serves as workstation.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0160, our Order No. WDL-18975.

Respectfully submitted,

RANKIN, HILL & CLARK LLP

By: /Randolph E. Digges, III/  
Randolph E. Digges, III, Reg. No. 40590

38210 Glenn Avenue  
Willoughby, Ohio 44094-7808  
(216) 566-9700